

Application No. 10/540,761
Reply to Office Action of May 23, 2008

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Docket No.: 63645(70820)

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 23, 2008, claims 1-8 are pending, claims 1-4 are rejected, and objection is made to claims 5-8. Reconsideration is requested at least for the reasons discussed hereinbelow.

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgement of the claim for priority and receipt of all priority documents.

A new title is provided in the above amendment as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as invention. Applicant believes that the amended claim more clearly states the invention as described in the specification. No new matter is added. The scope of the claim is unchanged.

Claim 5 has been amended to make it an independent claim. Therefore, claims 5-8 are now in condition for allowance.

The present invention is directed to and, as set forth in claim 1, claims a solid state imaging device having a controller that alternates a logarithmic operating period and a linear operating period, repeatedly, i.e.,

Operating Period	Amplifier mode
1	logarithmic
2	linear
3	logarithmic
4	linear
5	logarithmic
6	linear
... etc.	

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Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Masazumi (JP 2001-339639). Masazumi is directed to a solid state camera using active pixel sensor (APS). The object of Masazumi is to provide a solid state camera that can choose the optimal pixel configuration using either a linear amplifier or a logarithmic amplifier, as needed. To accomplish the objective, Masazumi describes evaluating the luminance of each pixel and deciding whether it is a bright scene, which automatically selects the logarithmic amplifier, or a dark scene, which automatically selects the linear amplifier. Nothing in Masazumi teaches or suggests a solid state imaging device having a controller that alternates a logarithmic operating period and a linear operating period, repeatedly, as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Masazumi. Claim 4 is patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

Thus, it is not seen how the presently claimed invention is anticipated by Masazumi. Nor is it seen how the presently claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Masazumi.

In view of the discussion above, applicant respectfully submits that the pending application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

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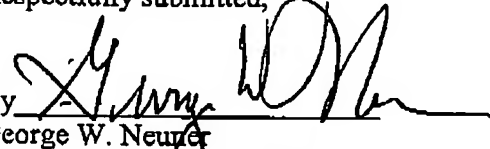
If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated:

20 Aug '08

Respectfully submitted,

By


George W. Neuner

Registration No.: 26,964

EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE
LLP

P.O. Box 55874

Boston, Massachusetts 02205

(617) 517-5538

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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